

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**National Agricultural Statistics Service****Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection**

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request approval for a new information collection, the Fruit and Nut Wildlife Damage Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 29, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Fruit and Nut Wildlife Damage Survey.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to conduct an information collection.

Abstract: A sample of U.S. producers of selected fruits and nuts will be surveyed. The primary goal of the survey is the collection and development of valid statistical data reflecting the percentage of U.S. fruit and nut growers experiencing loss of product or resources caused by vertebrate wildlife. An accurate measurement of dollar losses due to vertebrate wildlife will also be obtained.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response.

Respondents: Fruit and Nut Growers.

Estimated number of Respondents: 15,000.

Estimated total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,500 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to:

Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, January 22, 1998.

Rich Allen,

Acting Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4426 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Hackberry Draw Watershed, Eddy County, NM; Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environment Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rules (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the repair of Floodwater Retarding Structure 1 and Floodwater Diversion 2 in the Hackberry Draw Watershed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth B. Leiting, Acting State

Conservationist, National Resources Conservation Service, 6200 Jefferson, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3734; telephone 505-761-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Kenneth B. Leiting, Acting State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is flood prevention. The action includes the repair of one floodwater retarding dam and one floodwater diversion.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FNSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment is on file and may be reviewed by contacting Kenneth B. Leiting.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials)

Kenneth B. Leiting,

Acting State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 98-4395 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Business-Cooperative Service****National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Solicitation of Nominations of Board Members**

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: invitation to submit nominations.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces that it is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center for two directors' positions whose terms are expiring on February 13, 1999. The two positions are for active producers of